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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): G.D SOCIETA' PER AZIONI [IT/IT]; Via Battindarno, 91, I-40133 Bologna (IT).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): DRAGHETTI, Fiorenzo [IT/IT]; Via San Donino, 506, Frazione Vilafontana, I-40059 Medicina (IT). GIUNTA, Gabriele [IT/IT]; Via Lavino, 387/1, I-40050 Monte San Pietro (IT). RIZZOLI, Salvatore [IT/IT]; Via Galeazza, 21, I-40100 Bologna (IT).

(74) Agents: JORIO, Paolo et al.; c/o Studio Torta S.R.L., Via Viotti, 9, I-10121 Torino (IT).

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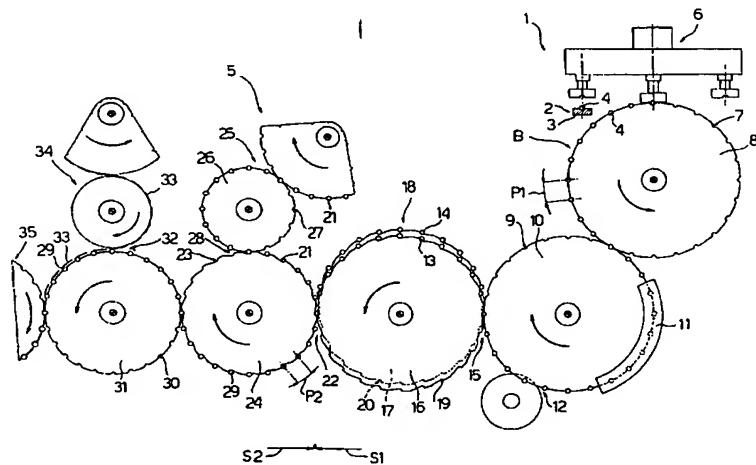
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(54) Title: METHOD OF PRODUCING FILTER-TIPPED CIGARETTES



(57) Abstract: An orderly succession of first tobacco articles (4), each defined by a double cigarette portion, is fed, with a first pitch (P1), to a first portion (S1) of a path (B) along a filter assembly machine (5); as they travel along the first portion, the first articles (4) are cut into respective pairs of portions (13, 14), and the portions in each pair are spaced axially and then fed along a second portion (S2) of the path (B); as they travel along the second portion, the portion (13, 14) in each pair are separated by the interposition of a double filter (21) to form a succession of second articles (29), each defined by the relative pair of portions (13, 14) and by the relative interposed double filter (21); a respective strip (33) being applied, by rolling, to each second article (29) to connect the pair of portions (13, 14) and the double filter (21) and form a third article (40) defined by a double cigarette; and the first articles (4) being subjected to a pitch reduction to assume, along the first portion (S1) of the path, a second pitch (P2) shorter than the first pitch (P1) and of a length approximately equal to but no shorter than the length of the relative strip (33).

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

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Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl.
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Pille, S

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